potential activity against hyperacidity and gastric ulceration; anticancer agents from bel, Nirgandi and Lal-bhuin anvalah. Some of these lead agents have been further taken up for converting into drugs. Some Indian Pharma companies have also developed new molecules from Reetha and Satyanasi for migraine and psoriasis, respectively which have been cleared for Phase-I clinical trials.

(c) No systematic and comprehensive efforts have been made so far on digitalising Inventory and documentation of our country;s Bio-Reserves. However, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the auspicies of National Bioresource Development Board (NBDB) has been pursuing work on preparation of digitized inventories of bioresources available in the country including medicinal and other economically important plants, animals, marine and microbial resources based on secondary information. The inventory on plant resources is now ready and contains information on nearly 2200 species. Work on other inventories is nearing completion.

(d) Under the Indo-Israel Cooperation, nine proejcts in genomics have been supported for pharmacogenomics, structural genomics, identification and characterization of noval genes. More than hundred human subejcts have been enrolled for the pharmacogenomics study. Genotyping for some fo the single nucleotide polymorphisms has been carried out. A database has been created to study the structure of proteins selected from the completed genome sequences. Several differentially regulated genes from *Trichoderma virens*, a fungus used as a biocontrol agent, have been identified and differential libraries have been constructed.

(e) and (f) In fact 52 technologies developed from Bio-Tech Laboratories have been transferred to industries and other user agencies so far. Out of these, seventeen have been already commercialized and are available to people for use. These products are in the areas of agriculture, aquaculture, human health, animal productivity and environmental safety.

Medicinal Plants in Jammu and Kashmir

1549. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to conserve herbs/roots, flowers of medicinal importance in Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has undertaken any schemes/progress in this direction during the last three years till September 30, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Government is fully aware of the need to conserve herbs/roots, flowers of medicinal importance in Jammu and Kashmir State. Some Central Ministries/ Departments/Institutes are supporting various research programmes for conservation of herbs/roots, flowers of medicinal importance in Jammu and Kashmir State. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research through one of its institutes *i.e.* Regional Research Laboratory (RRL) in Jammu which has a branch in Srinagar (J&K), is involved in the conservation of some important and endangered species of medicinal plants/parts. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established a gene bank for conservation of medicinal plants of Western Himalayan Region including that of Jammu and Kashmir at Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu. Field gene banks have been established at Jammu (Sub-tropical), Bonera (temperate) and Leh (cold-arid) regions for conservation of the genetic resources of medicinal plants of Western Himalayas. A seed bank and *in vitro* bank has also been developed. One more DBT-sponsored project on conservation and multiplication of endangered medicinal plant diversity of Kashmir Himalayas has been recently completed at Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Shalimar-Srinagar. Another DBT-sponsored project is being implemented by Kashmir University, Srinagar on collection and conservation of important medicinal plants of Jammu and Kashmir region. The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also supported a total number of twenty projects during the last three years till September 04, 2004 under promotional and commercial schemes for overall development of this sector in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Agenda for scientists

1550. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set a 12 point agenda for the scientific